

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Mehta for her allowance of the present application. In this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 7, 34, and 52 to address only formal matters of grammar and punctuation. In two locations in the Examiner's Amendment of claim 7, the phrase "introducer cannula" was inadvertently printed as "introducer_cannula." In addition, Applicant has amended claim 34 to remedy a grammatical error and has corrected a punctuation error in claim 52.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the foregoing amendments prior to issuance of the present application.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance states that "the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a method and/or system for excisional biopsy wherein the cannula is configured to accommodate only one of the guidewire ('target confirmation device' as recited in the claims) and stylet at a give time." While Applicant does not dispute the Examiner's characterization of the prior art, Applicant wishes to clarify several points regarding the scope of the allowed claims.

First, none of the allowed claims recite a "guidewire" or are otherwise limited to the features of a guidewire. As the Examiner points out, independent claims 1, 7, and 26 recite a target confirmation device while independent claims 51 and 52 recite a unitary introducer and target confirmation stylet.

Second, independent claim 1 recites that the target confirmation stylet is "selectively insertable within the introducer cannula only when the introducer stylet is removed from the introducer cannula." Independent claim 26 is a method claim that analogously recites removing the introducer stylet from an outer cannula and inserting the target confirmation device through the outer cannula. However, independent claim 7 does not recite and is not limited to this feature of claims 1 and 26, but instead recites other patentable features.

Similarly, because claims 50 and 52 recite a unitary introducer and target confirmation stylet, they necessarily do not recite and are not limited to devices in which the introducer cannula is

configured to accommodate only one of a target confirmation device and a stylet at a given time, but instead recite other patentable features.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the foregoing amendments is requested. Applicant has submitted the issue fee for this application herewith. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65937-0037 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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